14 April 2011

Informal Thematic Debate on Human Security

Background

Today, millions of men, women and children continue to find themselves in extreme and vulnerable circumstances. Threatened by intra-state conflicts, organised crime, chronic poverty, environmental degradation, deadly infectious diseases, and risks posed by natural hazards, the human, economic and social capital lost to these situations continue to exert a devastating toll on the survival, livelihood and dignity of large numbers of citizens around the globe.

Whereas in the past, the concept of security was equated primarily with territorial security, today cross-border military threats are only one, and often not the most significant challenge confronting people's lives. As a result, the guarantee of security no longer rests on military responses alone. Essential to its advancement is also healthy political, social, environmental, economic and cultural systems that together strengthen the inter-linkages between security, development and human rights and help advance human freedoms for all. Similarly, the shift towards a global environment has meant that national borders are permeable and insecurities in one area have the potential to pose grave threats not only to the immediate victims but also to the collective security of the international community.

In response to these developments, the United Nations General Assembly agreed at the 2005 World Summit to further discuss and define the notion of human security. Paragraph 143 of the World Summit Outcome (A/RES/60/1) recognizes that "all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential."

Drawing input from a number of governments as well as intergovernmental organisations, civil society groups, scholars and other prominent individuals, human security is gaining support not only at the United Nations but also in other forums. Subsequently, the notion of human security is increasingly reflected in the agendas of intergovernmental organizations such as the African Union, the European Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

At the United Nations, in addition to human security related activities undertaken by UN agencies, funds and programmes (A/62/695, annex), the General Assembly, in May 2008, held an informal thematic debate on human security. During the course of deliberations, consensus was reached by Member States on the need for a new culture of international relations that goes beyond fragmented responses and calls for comprehensive, integrated and people-centred approaches that help prevent or mitigate the growing instances of human insecurity around the world.

To this end, in March 2010, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued his report on human security (A/64/701). A formal debate on human security was subsequently held at the General Assembly on 20 and 21 May 2010, and in July 2010, the General Assembly adopted by consensus its resolution on human security entitled Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (A/RES/64/291).

Objective

The Informal Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on Human Security aims to support the goals set out in General Assembly Resolution 64/291 and to contribute to discussions on a notion of human security. It is envisioned that the debate will provide an opportunity for experts and Member States to share ideas and attempt to forge a common understanding on the core elements of human security, its added value, and a possible definition thereof.

Programme

The informal thematic debate took place on 14 April 2011 at UN Headquarters in New York. The debate, which consisted of two moderated panel discussions with high-level experts, focused on a possible approach to defining human security and its added value as a practical approach to addressing the growing interdependence of threats to peace and development for the people on the ground. The floor was opened to delegates for questions to the panellists as well as interventions.

Time	Programme
10 – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks • H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the General Assembly • H.E. Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	*Interactive Panel Debate 1: A Possible Approach for Defining Human Security* Moderator • Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Panelists • H.E. Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Founder of the Centre for Human Security • Dr. Frene Ginwala, Former Speaker of the National Assembly,

	Republic of South Africa and Member of the Commission on Human Security • Dr. Jennifer Leaning, Professor of the Practice of Health and Human Rights at Harvard School of Public Health • Dr. Amitav Acharya, Professor of International Relations and Chair of the ASEAN Studies Center at American University
3 – 5:45 p.m.	*Interactive Panel Debate 2: Human Security - its application and added-value* Moderator • Ms. Valerie Amos, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Panelists • H.E. Ms. Sonia Picado, President of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and Member of the Commission and Advisory Board on Human Security • Mr. Cheick Sidi Diarra, Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States • Dr. Andrew Mack, Director of the Human Security Report Project at Simon Fraser University and Former Director of the Strategic Planning Office in the Executive Office of United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan • Dr. Hans-Günter Brauch, Chairman of Peace Research and European Security Studies (AFES-PRESS) and Fellow at the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security
5:45 – 6 p.m.	Closing Remarks • Mr. Yukio Takasu, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Human Security • H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the General Assembly

Text of Speech by Professor Amitav Acharya, UNESCO Chair in Transnational Challenges and Governance, America University and Global Director of Transnational Challenges and Emerging Nations Dialogue (TRANSCEND), to the "Informal Thematic Debate of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Human Security", New York, 14 April 2011

The evolution of the concept of human security has gone through two phases. Between the 1990s and the early 2000s was a period of debate over its various meanings, whether human security was about freedom from fear, or freedom from want. Since then, the debate has entered a period of general agreement that human security is both, as well as freedom to live a life of dignity. It is not a matter of either this or either that. The important challenge is how to look for linkages between these various meanings.

But a common feature of all these debates and synthesis was that they were almost exclusively conducted by the academic community and policymakers of individual countries. Ironically, common people hardly got their voice through, even though human security is really about people's security. What people – especially those who are real victims of human insecurity in their real lives- think of the human security concept was hardly factored-in.

This bias was partly because these debates took place in academia and in intergovernmental institutions and forums, but not in the field. It was also because we did not do micro-research, or case studies in actual conflict areas. Instead, we focused on the broad picture.

Now we have some data to correct this bias. Recently, the Asian Dialogue Society a regional network of academics, policy leaders and concerned citizens and friends of Asia, in partnership with the School of International Studies at American University, and the Madhyam Foundation, a non-profit group in India, and funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan, carried out a study of human security in two regions of India – Northeast India and Orissa. Both these areas have lots of human insecurity – poverty, insurgency and conflict. Our findings, which has just beenpublished as a book entitled, *Human Security: From Concept to Practice* (Singapore and London: World Scientific, 2011), edited by Amitav Acharya, Subrat K. Singhdeo, and M. Rajaretnam, are important not only for the practical aspects of human security, but also for rethinking the concept itself. Let me list four of these findings:

1. *Poor people fear most.* In Northeast India, we found that 76.1 per cent of the people who have an annual income of 1000 rupees or less felt they were "compelled to live in

anxiety?", compared to 60.4 per cent of the people who had an income level of 10,000 rupees or more. The clear implication is that poverty and human insecurity are inextricably linked.

2. *States and state policies are also a source on human insecurity.*One cause of fear is operations by the military or security forces. For example, when asked whether theyfeared the militants or the military (security forces) more, 38.5 per cent of respondents in the North East India cases said they were equally afraid of both, a higher percentage than those who said they were more afraid of the militants and those who said they feared the security forces more. Another factor that came out clearly is bad governance, including government corruption. These findings go to the heart of a very important question about human security, which is security for *the people*, rather than security *for states*.

3. *Political and socio-economic factors behind conflict are closely linked.*Conflict is caused by a variety of sources. The three most important sources of popular dissatisfaction contributing to conflict (hence sources of threats to human security) that came out in both North East India and Orissa are: corruption in government, unemployment, and poverty and lack of basic amenities.

4. *People want dialogue.* More than two-thirds of the people – including people who sympathize with the insurgents- interviewed said they prefer dialogue to extreme solutions such as outright suppression or outright secession. They prefer governments to talk to insurgents, rather than strengthen military operations, or grant independence to them. Moreover, we people want the dialogue to be inclusive, involving the representatives of the larger civil society. This finding is significant for the UN's efforts to find effective solutions to the problem of internal conflicts leading to state break-ups. The key demand of groups fighting governments may not be to break away, but to have their human security respected and fulfilled. Responding to internal conflicts with this understanding mind will go a long way in addressing the challenge of state failure today.

This also leads me to talk briefly about responses to challenges to human security: how to devise effective policy tools to improve the prospects for human security around the world.

Mr Obasanjo has earlier urged the UN to develop a human security index. The foundation for such an index has already been laid in the project and book *Human Security: From Concept to Practice,*which I have mentioned earlier.In our project, we propose three policy tools: (1) Human Security Governance Index and Ranking; (2) Human Security Mapping in Conflict Zones; and (3) Human Security Impact Assessment. While limitation of time does not allow me to go into details, let me mention a few key points about each of these.

(1) *Human Security Governance Index and Ranking:*We now have Human Development Reports (under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program) for countries and increasingly states/provinces within countries, our innovation has been is to extend it to regions and districts (within states/provinces) to allow for more micro-studies and of the local context in which human security assessments and policies must be carried out. Moreover, we include governance, not just threats, in our measurement, since bad governance is a fundamental cause of human insecurity and good governance is key to ensuring the realization of human security.

(2) *Human Security Mapping in Conflict Zones:* People who live in the constant shadow of conflict may have more specific and acute perceptions of human security challenges and needs than people who live in relative peace and order. Hence, a methodology for relating to people in conflict zones and analyzing their concerns and attitudes is vital. Our project presents such a template.

(3) *Human Security Impact Assessment (HSIA):* We have environmental impact assessments for some time, but it is time to extend it and cover the entire gamut of human security concerns. Some projects intended for promoting development, such as large infrastructure projects undertaken by donor agencies, multilateral institutions like the World Bank, national/provincial governments, and corporations, no matter how well-intentioned, may end up aggravating insecurity and conflict in the area. A HSIA enables governments, foreign donors, multilateral institutions and corporations, to better anticipate the impact of their projects not just on development and environment, but also on security as a whole, from a broader perspective. And by necessity, such assessments have to be localized and micro-analytic. Our project has provided the template and methodology for such a HSIA, which can be easily adapted to all parts of the world.

None of this is to belittle the value of broad brush measurements of human security, such as the *Human Security Report,* produced under the leadership of Professor Andrew Mack. This is becoming an indispensable source of knowledge about human security. What I urge is for the international community, including the UN, to compliment the broad picture studies with micro-studies, which give you a better chance to incorporate the people's own perception of the meaning and scope of human security. My call is for allowing the civil society and the common people to get involved in the process of human security research and policy dialogues.

To sum up, the overall conclusion that one might reach from our study is that to an overwhelming extent, people see human security in a holistic way, not in a piecemeal manner. So the lines drawn between "freedom from fear", "freedom from want", and "freedom to live a life with dignity", are easily blurred in people's perceptions of human security, what it means to them and how it is challenged and how it is to be promoted. This is the finding that we need to bring into our ongoing efforts to reach a common understanding of human security and correct

the bias that I mentioned earlier. And while we derive these insights from case studies in India, it is my strong belief that they hold true everywhere.

I conclude by observing that just as the concept of human security itself is people-centric, so should be research and dissemination efforts about it. If the UN, the Human Security trust Fund and individual countries are to effectively promote human security, they might want to invest more on research and dissemination from "bottom-up", by increasing the engagement of common people and the civil society.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Hans Günter Brauch

**The Environmental Dimension of Human Security:
Freedom from Hazard Impacts**

1. Natural Disasters and Human Security

The cascading effects of a devastating earthquake and tsunami that triggered a major nuclear catastrophe in Japan on 11 March 2011 stresses the relevance of Beck's theory of a "global risk society".

The number of victims of the earthquakes in Haiti and in Chile in 2010 and of the tsunamis of 2004 and of 2011 differed due to the respective social vulnerability as a result of the degree of protection and coping capacities but also due to local resilience based on the empowerment of the people. **While hazards cannot be prevented, their impact can be reduced.**

These hazards did not affect national and international security but they had severe impacts on the **human security of human beings and most affected communities** and on **their water, soil, food, health and livelihood security**. This is the background for a fourth pillar of human security as **"*Freedom from Hazard Impacts*"** to deal with the environment, sustainable development and disasters and to include the respective organizations, programmes and initiatives within the UN system.

Human security addresses **threats that endanger the lives and livelihoods of individuals and communities**. Its mission was "to improve the knowledge base for the assessment of vulnerability and coping capacity of societies facing natural and human-induced hazards".

"Freedom from Hazard Impacts" calls for **reducing** the environmental and **social vulnerability** and **enhancing coping capabilities of societies** confronted with environmental, geophysical and climate-related hazards.

"Freedom from hazard impact" implies that people can mobilise their resources to address sustainable development goals. **Human security as freedom from hazard impact is achieved** when people who are vulnerable to environmental hazards and disasters that are often intensified by poverty, food insecurity, improper housing in flood-prone and coastal areas **are better warned of impending hazards, and are** *protected* **against them and are** *empowered* **to prepare themselves for them.**

5. Human Security Network, Friends of Human Security and UNGA Debate on Human Security on 22 May 2008

The *Human Security Network* endorsed this goal. Greece addressed climate change as a challenge for human security focusing on development, women, children and migrants. The *Friends of Human Security* discussed climate change and disasters since April 2007.

In the **UN General Assembly** meeting on human security in May 2008 many countries listed environ-

from Hazard Impacts" may now be added as a fourth pillar. Putting the environment and natural hazards on the human security agenda implies to address its impacts on water, soil, food, health and livelihood security.

Global environmental change as the outcome of the interaction between the earth and human system and of the direct human interference into nature has become a **scientific, political and security issue** since the 1970s. Since 2004 **climate change** became a **security concern**. While the **international** security debates addressed it as a '**threat multiplier**', the **national** security debate addressed **threats for a nation** and on how to respond.

A human security perspective on climate change puts **human beings, communities and humankind** in the centre, addresses **how *physical* and *societal* impacts of climate change pose HS dangers**, and how human beings, states and the international community **can cope to avoid major human catastrophes**.

As '**we' are the threat** (through our energy consumption), **it is 'us'** who have to change our consumption and must adapt the governance structures to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from 1990 to 2050. This implies a shift from *business-as-usual* strategies towards an **alternative sustainability paradigm**.

A *policy-focused human security approach* to climate change prioritizes the **climate-induced security threats humankind will *face*** during the 21st century. Its task is to **develop policies for better coping with the human security impacts of climate change** by measures of mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building to *protect*

hood security. It affects water quantity and quality, posing a direct challenge to human health. Water is also crucial for soil and food security. The **policy agenda evolved** from poverty alleviation, diverse development paradigms, sustainability to financial, physical, human, societal, political and cultural capitals and to sectoral security issues **that affect human security**.

1. *Water security* suggests "that every person has access to **enough safe water** at an **affordable cost** to lead a healthy and productive life and that the vulnerable are **protected** from the **risks of water-related hazards**."

2. "**Soil security** is achieved when **efforts succeed to conserve soil fertility, contain land degradation and combat desertification** and when the consequences of drought are reduced **by improving livelihood and human wellbeing of the people**."

3. *Food security* is achieved "**when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food** which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life".

4. While the WHO uses a **state-centred** understanding of **health security** related to epidemics, bioterrorism and prevention, a **human security** approach focuses on the interrelationship between **human health and environmental services as important health providers** and expresses the crucial relationship between water, food and health security.

9. Human Security Responses to Security Dangers Posed by Global Environmental Change Impacts

What policy responses are needed to achieve human security as "Freedom from Hazard Impact"?

"Dangerous climate change" may become a human and international security threat if the **stabilization** of the increase of global average temperature of **2°C fails**. If the linear effects of climate change should cross a **threshold** and trigger **"tipping points** in the climate system", such as the melting of the glaciers in the Andes and in the Himalaya, its **geopolitical impacts** may be far more extreme than the effects of 11 March 2011. **The industrialized countries are not immune to the consequences of climate-related hazards.**

10. Strategies for Coping with Environmental Threats to Human Security

The catastrophe of 11 March 2011 stresses the need to develop the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015* further to cope with **complex emergencies** and **cascading effects of complex hazards** to protect the people.

"Freedom from Hazard Impacts" addresses the consequences for their **human security** but also on **water, soil, food, health and livelihood security**. From a policy perspective a **holistic coping strategy** requires better **horizontal coordination** of strategies, policies and measures of ministries and international organizations.

The daily survival problems of five billion people, their social vulnerability and physical exposure to climate change are **creating additional dangers for human security**, but also **challenges for an integrated human security approach that combines all four pillars**.

"**Freedom from Hazard Impacts**" implies a **close co-operation between those agencies** working on the **global environmental** and the **hazard agenda**.

It may be an appropriate time for the United Nations General Assembly to consider adding to the first three pillars of Human Security as

- "**Freedom from Fear**" and the peacekeeping, humanitarian law and disarmament agenda;

- "**Freedom from Want**" referring to the human and sustainable development agenda;

- "**Freedom to live in Dignity**" and human rights, democratic governance and rule of law;

a fourth pillar as

- "**Freedom from Hazard Impacts**" that introduces into the human security framework at the United Nations General Assembly the **policy agendas** dealing with **global environmental change** issues as well as **natural hazards and disasters** (early warning, disaster response, disaster preparedness, resilience building and reduction of social vulnerability).

Words 2.250

Talking Points for Ambassador Nishida
GA Informal Thematic Debate on Human Security
14 April 2011

(Introduction)

First of all, let me express my Government's sincere gratitude to the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr Joseph Deiss, for his initiative in convening today's meeting. I would also like to thank the distinguished panellists for their inspiring presentations.

This informal thematic debate is most opportune as a follow-up to the GA resolution entitled *Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome* (A/RES/64/291), adopted last year in July at the initiative of the Group of Friends of Human Security. Today's discussion will certainly contribute to deepening our understanding on this concept, which is so relevant to the new and emerging global challenges we are facing.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to share my thoughts on the scope of human security, its added value and the way forward to "defining" the concept, and seek the views of the distinguished panellists.

(Scope of the human security concept)

First, with regard to the scope, in Japan, human security is conceived as a people-centred approach to effectively tackle a wide range of global challenges that has real impact on people's lives, livelihood and dignity.

In our view, human security perspective is indispensable in addressing issues such as sudden economic downturn caused by economic crises, threats to health such as infectious disease or food crisis, natural hazards arising from climate change or earthquakes, as well as the recovery and peace building after conflict.

Needless to say that, in applying the human security concept to these issues, the Member States should comply with the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, in full respect of national sovereignty.

(Added value of the human security approach)

Secondly, regarding the added value of the concept, we strongly believe that an aggregated country-level approach is not sufficient for tackling these global issues that are both broad and deeply inter-connected. The human security concept induces policy makers to have closer eye on individuals, households and communities, identify the real needs on the ground, and study the most effective ways to address those needs.

For example, the social unrest that led to serious political consequences in some parts of North Africa and the Middle East might be looked at from the viewpoint of human security,

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with particular focus on youth and their self-fulfilment including employment, in order to find the way for a long-term stability.

Also, in order to achieve the MDGs, we need to bridge the implementation gaps and reach to the most vulnerable communities within countries, such as those in rural areas, displaced persons, migrants, ethnic minorities and the poorest households. At the same time, as those people are faced with multiple threats related to the Goals 1 to 7 of the MDGs, we need to take integrated and multi-sectoral actions that cover all aspects of their vulnerabilities.

Allow me to touch upon just one example out of over 200 projects approved by the United Nations Human Security Trust Funds since 1999. To better address the needs of the most disadvantaged rural communities in southern and eastern Bhutan, the Trust Fund supported a project implemented by UNDP in partnership with UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP during the past three years. The project proved itself to be effective in seeking to enhance the villagers' capacities through vocational education; expand literacy by increasing school enrolment; improve access to health services and sanitation; support job creation through micro-finance schemes and the establishment of Community Development Centers.

Human security proposes people-centred, comprehensive, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder responses that enable the protection and empowerment of people and communities. Such a bottom-up perspective in policy formulation is, in our view, the most significant added value of the concept of human security.

(Way forward to "defining" the concept)

Lastly, as for the way forward, based on what I have just explained, my Government supports a pragmatic and practical approach to "defining" the concept of human security.

Rather than trying to elaborate a strict and detailed definition, we should discuss to forge a common understanding on the added value of the human security approach and pursue concrete collaboration on that basis. This has been the shared preference of the members of Friends of Human Security, that Japan and Mexico co-chairs.

As agreed by the Heads of States and Government in 2005, in paragraph 143 of the World Summit Outcome, human security aims to enable all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, to be freed from fear and want, and to enjoy all their rights and to fully develop their human potential. In our view, there is nothing more and nothing less to this notion.

(Conclusion)

In concluding, I would like to kindly request the views of the distinguished panellists on the three points I have mentioned, namely, the scope of the human security concept, its added value in application, and the way forward to "defining" the concept in the United Nations.

Thank you very much.

Statement by Mr. KIM Soo-Gwon

Minister Counsellor

General Assembly Informal Interactive Thematic Debate on "Human Security"

14 April, 2011

<u>New York</u>

<Check against Delivery>

Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation for convening this important meeting and also extends its respect to the distinguished panelists for their valuable contribution to the progress of the concept of "Human Security." My delegation also would like to recognize the sustained enthusiasm and contribution of the Japanese Government in pursuing this topic of "Human Security."

Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea, as a friend of human security, has recognized the substantial contribution of the notion of human security to the work of the UN in many aspects. Our view on human security is that, firstly, it is a useful concept to compliment the traditional concept of security. The most important goals of the United Nations, Peace and Security, Development, and Human Rights, are all closely linked and similarly each overlap with each other. In many ways, human security is the specific point of convergence. Given the multidimensional and complimentary nature of human security, the work for peace, development, and human rights could, and should, be viewed through a holistic framework which the very notion of human security merits.

Secondly, my delegation views human security as a flexible approach to address the various threats and challenges we are facing, rather than a binding principle or overarching legal issue. Rather than top-down, human security brings the human face of insecurity to the forefront in a more bottom-up approach. In this connection, my delegation believes that, with continued work on this significant issue, the broad idea of human security can eventually be put into practice in the field, in such a way that

focuses on individuals and communities through robust protection and empowerment. This could be a potent tool for the international community to use as we seek to make greater progress in achieving our goals in real, tangible terms in harmony with the other norms of international relations.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the recent progress that has been made regarding Human Security, the Secretary-General's Report on "Human Security" and GA Resolution A/Res/64/291, adopted by consensus.

Mr. President,

The organization of this Informal Interactive Thematic Debate will surely give us another invaluable opportunity to deepen the overall understanding of Human Security and broaden the support for the concept, thus strengthening its base for better implementation in the field. We look forward to a productive and fruitful dialogue.

I thank you, Mr. President.

ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЕ
представителя российской делегации на тематической дискуссии
Генассамблеи ООН по безопасности человека
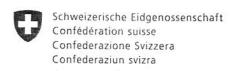
Госпожа модератор,

Российская делегация хотела бы поблагодарить панелистов за их интересные выступления.

В качестве общего комментария считаем уместным отметить следующее. Дискуссии по тематике безопасности человека не должны двигаться по замкнутому кругу обсуждения лишь преимуществ и путей реализации концепции. Эти этапы в диалоге в ООН уже пройдены в прошедшие годы. Основой для дальнейших шагов является резолюция 64/291 ГА ООН. Длительный процесс её согласования позволил всем заинтересованным странам-членам вдоволь подискутировать по всем аспектам безопасности человека и привел к общему пониманию необходимости достижения согласия в отношении её определения в Генассамблее. На это же нацеливает и основополагающий мандат пункта 143 Итогового документа Саммита 2005 г. Навязывание дискуссии по уже рассмотренным аспектам данной инициативы контрпродуктивно с точки зрения возможного продвижения концепции в работу ООН.

Мы поддерживаем фокус панели на выработке понятия безопасность человека. На наш взгляд, такое определение должно отражать следующее понимание.

1. Главная задача реализации безопасности человека состоит в обеспечении гармоничного развития человеческого потенциала в социально-экономической области.

2. Безопасность человека является одним из важнейших органичных элементов безопасности государства; она тесно связана с военно-политической безопасностью, и эти понятия взаимозависимы в контексте утверждающегося в международных отношениях нового комплексного подхода к определению "безопасности". Безопасность человека применяется исключительно в рамках международного права, в соответствии с принципами недопустимости применения силы или угрозы ее применения вразрез с принципами и положениями Устава ООН, невмешательства во внутренние дела, уважения национального суверенитета.

3. Ведущую роль в применении КБЧ на национальном уровне играют сами правительства, несущие основную ответственность за обеспечение безопасности граждан своих стран; роль международного сообщества -оказывать правительствам по их просьбе и с их согласия необходимое содействие в наращивании потенциала преодоления стоящих вызовов.

4. Применение КБЧ должно идти в русле существующих концептуальных основ международного сотрудничества, в т.ч. в области прав человека, устойчивого развития и пр. Деятельность под флагом БЧ осуществляется при центральной роли ООН т.е. не дублирует и не подменяет уже имеющиеся направления работы ООН и не посягает на прерогативы соответствующих институтов - Совета Безопасности ООН, ЭКОСОС, Совета по правам человека.

Благодарю Вас.

65. Session of the General Assembly

Informal interactive thematic debate on Human Security

Interactive Panel Debate 1: A Possible Approach for Defining Human Security

New York, 15 April 2011

Joint Statement of the Human Security Network

H.E. Mr. Paul Seger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland

Mr. President,

It is an honor for me to speak today for the first time in my capacity as Chair of the Human Security Network. The Human Security Network is a cross-regional group of countries, which includes Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand, and South Africa as an observer.

We are aware of the necessity to reach a common understanding of what we are talking about when we use the term „Human Security". But we should avoid embarking on an academic exercise. Let's try to outline the concept and concentrate on concrete operational conclusions we can derive from it.

On the concept of Human Security: At the center of attention of Human Security is the human being. The way to look at security from a Human Security viewpoint is thus a "vertical" one, i.e. from the individual to the State as the main provider of security, whereas the conventional "horizontal" way addresses security primarily from an inter-State perspective. The two approaches are not mutually exclusive but rather complementary. Adding the Human Security element thus offers a more holistic perspective to the security discussion, both at the national and international levels. Human Security is a unifying concept that bridges notions of security at all levels, from the individual and/or local (i.e. human security) to the national (i.e. state security) and global (i.e. international security).

The Human Security approach also takes into account the fact that threats to security occur nowadays more on the intra-State than on the inter-State level. Today's multiple, complex and highly interrelated threats affect the lives of millions of men, women and children around the globe. Threats such as natural disasters, violent conflicts and their impact on civilians, as well as food, health, financial and economic crises tend to have transnational dimensions that force us to revise our traditional notions of security.

By addressing Human Security we focus on several relevant questions, such as: How can human beings be protected from major threats to their life, safety, fundamental rights and dignity? What are the factors that affect Human Security? What threats should individuals be protected from and how? Who will provide the protection from those threats? And what are the conditions for a life in freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity?
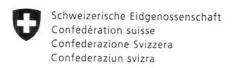
We believe that there are a number of core conditions which need to be met in order to allow people to live decently in a safe, secure environment: Protection from all forms of violence, including armed violence, protection from life-threatening diseases, the existence of essential economic and social prerequisites such as the existence of shelter, water, food, sanitation and a safe environment, including preparedness for natural disasters, and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, including the protection from arbitrary behavior of the state. All these topics can be broadly categorized into three pillars: peace and security, development and human rights. The list of topics is open, we do not claim it to be comprehensive.

In our Network we have dealt with those questions in a very pragmatic way: over the years, our practice has been to recognize topics as being relevant to Human Security and then to act upon them. Examples are: Children affected by armed conflict, Women, Peace and Security, Sexual Violence, Protection of Civilians, HIV/Aids, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Transnational Organized Crime.

In short, our network has been working without having a straightforward definition of the notion. Human Security encompasses peace and security, development and Human Rights, which are all interrelated. As a consequence, single members of the Network, while sharing a common and deep commitment to Human Security, are free to prioritize the topics they are most concerned with. The debate about the definition should not prevent us from focusing on the Human Security related issues that people face every day and all over the world. Helping people on the ground at the end of the day is what really matters and improvements in Human Security directly and positively impact people's daily lives.

Against this background and as a constructive input into the question of what approach should be chosen for defining Human Security, we would like to suggest that as a first step, the General Assembly might try to agree on common elements to the Human Security Approach or what we could refer to as an "expression of coverage". We understand that similar approaches have been successfully used for other topics, where a definition could not be reached, such as the protection of minorities or the protection of indigenous people. If we can agree on the topics that should be covered by the notion of Human Security, we can still try to pour those elements into a definition at a later stage. As such, the finding of an expression of coverage would present an important milestone in the way to finding a definition.

Thank you.

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Swiss Confederation

65. Session of the General Assembly

Informal interactive thematic debate on Human Security

Interactive Panel Debate 2: Human Security – its application and added-value

New York, 15 April 2011

Joint Statement of the Human Security Network

Mr. Thomas Gürber, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland

Mr. President,

Distinguished colleagues, I will take the floor again in my capacity as Chair of the Human Security Network. The Human Security Network is a cross-regional group of countries, which includes Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand, and South Africa as an observer.

On the added value of Human Security

The Human Security Network firmly believes in the added value of Human Security and its applicability. Let me explain you why.

Firstly, the concept of Human Security fills a gap. The conventional notion of international security does not address today's multiple, complex and highly interrelated threats that affect the lives of millions of men, women and children around the globe. In contrast, the notion of Human Security makes clear that in order to gain security, we must succeed not only in preventing armed conflict but also in addressing a range of other sources of insecurity, such as natural disasters, looming food shortages, or even economic crises. So by putting Human Security center stage, we acknowledge different realities in the field.

Secondly, the concept of Human Security helps us to pay more attention to the root causes of threats. It helps us to promote early warning systems that prevent threats from materializing or mitigate the impact of threats that do materialize.

Thirdly, the Human Security approach ultimately strengthens local capacities, which in turn contributes to national security. Governments retain the primary role in guaranteeing the rule of law and in promoting mutually supportive and harmonious societal relations.

Last but not least, as a broad, flexible and context-specific concept, Human Security provides a dynamic framework that enables the development of solutions that are embedded in local realities.
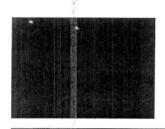
On the application of Human Security

In his report on Human Security, Secretary-General has identified four levels at which Human Security is being applied and where improvements have been observed:

- At the national level, several Governments made significant efforts to place Human Security in their national and foreign policies (examples: Mongolia, Ecuador, Thailand).
- Regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations are also crucial partners in guaranteeing Human Security. They adopt decisions and frameworks with the objective of strengthening the Human Security architecture in the subregions and ensuring timely and targeted multi-actor and multidimensional responses.
- Regarding the UN system, we have to underline the work of the Commission on Human Security that embarked on a program of global outreach and engaged in wide-ranging consultations with Governments, regional and international organizations and civil society. The Commission's final report has been instrumental in enhancing the application of the Human Security concept in the UN, most notably, in the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. UNDP and UNESCO have also been very active on the matter.
- Last but not least, the UN Trust Fund for Human Security played a critical role in channeling financial resources to field-based projects. Human Security projects have proven beneficial in addressing the multidimensional impacts of threats to peoples and communities. Projects have covered all regions and have aimed at rebuilding war-torn societies, preventing, mitigating and responding to natural disasters, increasing harvests and strengthening food security, improving access to health care and education in times of crises, and mobilizing communities through participatory processes, local leadership and integrated capacity-building measures.

Let me conclude with these words. Regarding the application of Human Security the Human Security Network considers that we are on the right track, but that there is a need for improved cooperation. The latest global financial and economic crisis, the rising food prices along with climate-related emergencies, protracted conflicts and the emergence of new conflicts (Arab world), the spread of infectious diseases and other health threats, transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, climate change and natural disasters (Japan) remind us every day that challenges have to be dealt with in a coordinated manner on a cross-national and global level. The Human Security Network is firmly convinced that applying the Human Security concept will help local, national, regional and international communities to deal with those crises.

Thank you.

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STATEMENT

BY

MR. MUYAMBO SIPANGULE,
CHARGE D' AFFAIRES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

WHEN HE CONTRIBUTES TO

THE INFORMAL INTERACTIVE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON HUMAN SECURITY

AT THE

UN HEADQUARTERS ON 14TH APRIL 2011

New York

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you for the initiative of convening this debate on this crucial subject of Human Security just as other speakers before me have done. I also thank you for assembling the distinguished panelists both for the morning and this afternoon's session, who have helped to focus our discussions.

Mr. President,

In defining the subject of our discussion today, my delegation, believes that other than being based on a system of ensuring the survival, livelihood and dignity of citizens, Human Security is most importantly a unifying concept which promotes a people centred solution to societal threats. It is therefore, an approach that includes efforts but not limited to human rights, international humanitarian law, national and regional roadmaps for social, political and economic development as contained in the report of the Secretary-General A/64/701 before us.

It thus covers the policies, regulatory and procedural mechanisms which enhance or hamper and affect people's lives, at the sub-regional and international commitments as well as assurances such as the UN-agreed Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

With such a broad definition, my delegation believes that Human Security can only happen or be achieved when a series of aspects of human organisation from the development of the individual, the State and the national governance and economic systems, as well as the international elements, all converge in an interdependent and complimentary framework. Thus, aspects that contribute towards Human Security are interdependent and complimentary to elements that strengthen the enjoyment of human rights and should only be guaranteed when specific needs are provided. The absence of either the specific legal obligations, the institutions to operationalise them or the freedom of the individuals to access social protection would therefore undermine human security.

Mr. President,

As contained in the outcome document of the Millennium Summit of 2000, the approach of human security is clearly different from that of the responsibility to protect.

As an African country and being familiar with the causes of human insecurity, my delegation feels that as long as there are no measures that address the causes of human insecurity, it is doubtful as to whether the global society would achieve the desired human security.

The question which arises from this therefore is what are these causes of human insecurity? To answer this question one only has to look at Africa's instability and on

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how it has impacted on human insecurity. Its common knowledge to all delegation how these conflicts came about as the evidence is in the public arena.

Mr. President,

Africa's human security has always been threatened by high levels of poverty, poor and undemocratic governance, unbalanced and stifling world trade practices, and lack of commitment and failure to honour promises by the international community. As long as we continue to have oceans of poverty and under-development around the world; as long as we continue to govern in discriminative, corrupt and ineffective ways; as long as we continue with trade practices that disadvantage weak and small developing countries; continue to deny citizens their human rights; and as long as we do not address governance challenges wherever they occur, the global community will continue to be faced with an ever-present threat to human security.

Mr. President,

I wish to state that although Africa and other developing countries may bear the blunt of the chaos arising from poor and or the lack of human security, the consequences from this insecurity can not be avoided or escaped by any nation. We live in a world which is inter-dependent and globalised.

A threat to human security in one country could easily spread across within a short time and affect those who already feel secure. The consequences of human insecurity, manifest into other challenges such as illegal migration, cartel and transnational crime, the spread of incurable diseases and other health risks, terrorism, drug trafficking and other scourges.

Mr. President,

As indicated in your report, my delegation feels that the approach to applying human security should be people centred, comprehensive, specific in context with proactive responses to situations. I therefore agree with the proposal to develop an index that can serve as a template for further defining this important approach to human security.

Mr. President,

My delegation realize that applying Human Security will require broad and acceptable consensus among the Member States. We also recognise the need for caution not to duplicate the social and economic development initiatives being spearheaded under the UN banner. I therefore want to end by calling upon your office to take on board the many views being expressed by Member States today to enhance the General Assembly's work on this important effort.

I thank you.